

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A hinge for an electronic device comprising:
 - a body including a printed circuit board and a terminal extending from the printed circuit board;

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- a contact member including a conductive contact and a contact sleeve, the contact member defining a contact passageway,

wherein the terminal and at least a portion of the printed circuit board are positioned within the contact passageway, the terminal is electrically coupled to the contact, the contact is capable of movement relative to the terminal, and electrical contact is maintained between the contact and the terminal throughout the movement of the contact relative to the terminal.

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2. A hinge as defined in claim 1, wherein the terminal is formed from a spring having two ends and a ball positioned on one end of the spring and the opposite end of the spring is attached to the printed circuit board.

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3. A hinge as defined in claim 1, further comprising a terminal sleeve and wherein at least a portion of the printed circuit board is positioned within the sleeve and wherein a portion of the terminal extends through the sleeve.

4. A hinge as defined in claim 3, wherein the terminal sleeve includes a printed circuit board passageway and a terminal passageway, the terminal passageway including two diametrically opposed openings, and wherein the terminal passageway is in communication with the printed circuit board passageway.

5. A hinge as defined in claim 4, wherein the terminal is formed from a spring having two ends and a ball positioned on one end of the spring and wherein the effective diameter of one of the openings is smaller than the diameter of the ball.

6. A hinge as defined in claim 2, further comprising a terminal sleeve and wherein at least a portion of the printed circuit board is positioned within the terminal sleeve and wherein a portion of the ball extends through the terminal sleeve.

7. A hinge as defined in claim 1, wherein the contact sleeve covers a portion of the conductive contact.

8. A hinge as defined in claim 7, wherein the contact includes a generally circular portion and a tail portion and wherein said contact sleeve covers the generally circular portion.

9. A hinge as defined in claim 1, further comprising a connector electrically coupled to the printed circuit board.

10. A hinge as defined in claim 1, wherein the body includes a plurality of terminals extending from one side of the printed circuit board.
11. A hinge as defined in claim 1, wherein the body includes a plurality of terminals and wherein the plurality of terminals extend from opposite sides of the printed circuit board.
12. A hinge as defined in claim 1, wherein the contact member includes a plurality of contacts and wherein each terminal is electrically connected to one of the plurality of contacts.
13. A hinge as defined in claim 1, wherein the contact sleeve is shielded.

14. A hinge for an electronic device comprising:

a body including a first printed circuit board having a first surface and a second

5 surface, a second printed circuit board having a first surface and a second surface and spaced from said first printed circuit board, a first terminal extending from the second surface of the first printed circuit board, a second terminal extending from the second surface of the second printed circuit board, and at least one spring mounted between the first surface of the first printed circuit board and the first surface of the second printed circuit board;

10 a contact member including first and second conductive contacts, the first and second conductive contacts defining a contact passageway therein;

wherein the first and second terminals are positioned within the contact passageway such that the first terminal is electrically coupled to the first contact and the second terminal is electrically coupled to the second contact, and wherein the first and second contacts are capable of movement relative to the first and second terminals and wherein electrical contact is maintained between the first and second contacts and the first and second terminals throughout the movement of the first and second contacts relative to the first and second terminals.

15. A hinge as defined in claim 14, wherein said first and second terminals are spherically shaped.

16. A hinge as defined in claim 14, wherein the body includes a plurality of first and second terminals.

17. A hinge as defined in claim 14, wherein the contact member include a plurality of first and second conductive contacts and wherein each first conductive contact is electrically coupled to a first terminal and each second conductive contact is electrically coupled to a second terminal.

18. A hinge as defined in claim 14, wherein the contact sleeve is shielded.

19. An electronic device comprising: a base portion including electronic components, a cover including electronic components; a hinge electrically connecting the electronic components of the base portion to the electronic components of the cover, the hinge including:

5 a body including a printed circuit board and a terminal extending from the printed circuit board,

10 a contact member including a conductive contact, the conductive contact defining a contact passageway,

15 wherein the terminal is positioned within the contact passageway and electrically coupled to the conductive contact, the contact is capable of movement relative to the terminal, and electrical contact is maintained between the contact and the terminal throughout the movement of the contact relative to the terminal.

20. An electronic device comprising a base portion including electronic components; a cover including electronic components; a hinge electrically connecting the electronic components in the base portion to the electronic components of the cover, the hinge including:

5 a body including a first printed circuit board having a first surface and a second surface, a second printed circuit board having a first surface and a second surface and spaced from the first printed circuit board, a first terminal extending from the second surface of the first printed circuit board, a second terminal extending from the second surface of the second printed circuit board, and at least one spring mounted between the first surface of the first printed circuit board and the first surface of the second printed circuit board;

10 a contact member including first and second conductive contacts the first and second conductive contacts defining a passageway therein;

15 wherein the first and second terminals are positioned within the contact passageway such that the first terminal is electrically coupled to the first conductive contact and the second terminal is electrically coupled to the second conductive contact; and wherein the first and second conductive contacts are capable of movement relative to the first and second terminals and wherein electrical contact is maintained between the first and second contacts and the first and second terminals throughout the movement of the first and second contacts relative to the first and second terminals.

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